

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

March 2012

Next Meeting: Monday, March 19, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, spring is certainly in the air early this year and with that expect some stormy weather. At this time of each year, our thoughts should turn to our antennas. Winter weather can take a toll on not only our antennas themselves, but also on the entire infrastructure relating to the antenna. With that said, please take the time to check your grounding and support system integrity for your antenna. I think the last thing any of us want is a lightning surprise while "assuming" all was well and safe.

Also do not forget the Virginia QSO party will take place again this year on March 17th and 18th. This will be a good opportunity for members to get on the air again - all participants are looking for contacts with Virginia stations.

The OVH's recently commissioned 2M (146.865) D-Star repeater has become a big hit in the area ham community with many stations from all over the area checking in on it. Be sure to give it a try if you are D-Star capable. This D-Star repeater required considerable work to put in place, and we all need to thank Keith (KM4AA) for his untiring, lengthy efforts and his pursuit of perfection for the hardware and software for it. Job well done!

As I write this we are preparing for an initial group build of the long delayed the DV-Board build project for D-Star: six OVH members are now scheduled to be in the first group build session on March 17th; sorry there is not room for everyone at this time, but later build groups will benefit from the experiences with the first build group. In order to determine whether that are any additional DV board updates, I have been trying to contact Satoshi-San (Designer of the DV-Board) for any further firmware revisions although that will little effect on the upcoming build session which will use the existing firmware which does work. The plan is to assemble and test the DV boards using the firmware on-hand unless or until we obtain additional firmware updates.

Recently, Richard / KI4KXJ brought to the Club's attention the "free"



Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres:	Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3556
Treasurer:	Gary Gilham	WG4ARC	932-1118

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN / KG4NXT	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2012

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

FIELD DAY 2012

Randy	WB7RAV	393-1494
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
	email:	KG4GIY@ARRL.NET
Prince William County ARES website		http://pwcares.org

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Gary	WG4ARC	932-1118

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA

Scott	KB8NUM	365-2642
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Steve	N0DWB	349-1381
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2012 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday each month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz or D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or on 80 meters (3710 KHz) LSB each Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. (8:00 pm in Summer) or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

Articles and quotations in the OVH Times newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and any other noted source. Proposed materials for publication including pictures, articles, letters to the editor, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited from all readers. Forward such items to the OVH Times Newsletter Editor: PAUL@W4ZB.COM as soon as available at any time, but the cutoff deadline for the OVH Times each month (usually the second Monday of the month) may preclude publication/correction until the following month.

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availability for the OVH of a used 6-meter repeater, apparently of the heavy iron type in a large relay rack, which is being retired from service elsewhere nearby. This has caused considerable discussion on the OVH's reflector, mostly in favor, with many offers to assist. Updates about this will certainly be a topic for the upcoming meeting. However, we should all keep in mind that the OVH is now supporting six different repeaters - although none (yet) on 10 meters, 6 meters or on 23 cm.

I look forward to seeing you all at the March 19th meeting.

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes this month to Russ / WB4HNN and Jeff / N1SN.

Terry / WA5NTI is continuing to experiment with automating his station with software and gave an hour long presentation at the March, 2012 AMRAD meeting about the DX Lab software system. His presentation was broadcast live on the Internet.

The Sunshine Corner column is short again this month because, having already attempted to resign and find a replacement, I have been very busy with other things at work and elsewhere, including for the OVH. The Club really needs to find a replacement for me to handle the Sunshine Corner for the current year. I will assist with the transition and it does not really take that much time. I need more time to devote to the history project for the Club which is described later briefly in this Newsletter. The OVH club still has other committee chair openings and now would also be a great time to volunteer for Publicity and Membership.

Until someone steps forward as a replacement, please continue to send your news / comments to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or by telephone to 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting February 20, 2012:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 33 OVH members and 3 guests.

No Program

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as read

Treasurer's Report by Gary / WG4ARC, approved as presented

Membership – Theresa / KG4TVM presented Simon / KB3QOA for vote, approved

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported the 2-meter DSTAR is up and running, it will be tweaked over the weekend; George / K4GVT thanked Keith for a job well done.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ has completed teaching his January Tech class with a total of 13 students, a new record; because there were so many attendees, the VEC examination could not be scheduled with the OVH VECs, and the attendees were advised to go to the Alexandria Radio Club VEC session. Mark will let us know a later date about the next training class.

Continued on page 4

Hamfest – George / K4GVT handed out flyers at the Richmond hamfest in early February.

Ballots for the election were handed out.

Winter Field Day – Joe / KI4OHR thanked everyone for participating; he thanked Clarence / K4CNM for operating at night; Joe will not be chairing the event next year but he will work with Art / W1CRO to write a logging program; George / K4GVT thanked Joe for chairing the event and for bringing it the club as a special event; approximately two dozen passers-by stopped in to see what was going on during the event.

Election results – President: George / K4GVT, Vice President: Wayne / AG4ZZ, Treasurer: Gary / WG4ARC and Secretary: Theresa / KG4TVM. George K4GVT thanked everyone for their vote of confidence.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa KG4TVM wished everyone in February a happy birthday, reminded everyone of the Virginia QSO party on March 17th and 18th. Thanks to Jan & Steve for being the first club member in the spotlight in the Newsletter.

Website – George K4GVT asked about hamfest exposure on the web site, he is getting calls; Paul / W4ZB will get the Hamfest flyer and other hamfest related materials up on the OVH web site forthwith.

BREAK

JOTA – Scott / KB8NUM new chair for JOTA let us know this will be JOTA's 55th year and the JOTA event will be October 21st and 22nd. A location from which to operate has not yet been determined.

50/50 – Gene / N4HFW won \$9 and donated his winnings back to the club

New Business – Steve / KB4OF is interested in upgrading to Extra and is interested in a class, Mark / WA4KFZ will let us know if he will be conducting an Extra Class license class; thanks to Patty / KI4FQF for put together the new club ID badges.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, March 31, 2012, Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest, Timonium Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland. More info at <http://gbhc.org>

Friday, May, 18, 2012 - Sunday, May 20, 2012, Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, Ohio. More information at <http://hamvention.com>

Sunday, June 10, 2012 - Manassas Hamfest, Prince William County Fairgrounds, Manassas, Virginia. More information at <http://w4ovh.net> and <http://manassashamfest.org>

SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

Saturday, March 17, 2012 - Sunday, March 18, 2012 - Virginia QSO Party. Lots of fun. Full details at http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/QSOParty.htm

There are many operating contests almost all of the time. The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM lists most of them! See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site. Note: updated and complete direct contact information for David now appears on page 2 of the Newsletter.

Spotlight on OVH Members

Mark / WA4KFZ

I've been a ham for over 41 years! I got my Novice license in 1970 (WN8IQT) when I was in the 8th grade. When I moved to the Northern Virginia area in 1974 I obtained my current call sign as an Advanced Class operator. In 2006 I FINALLY got my Extra Class license. I've been a member of the OVH since 2003. I'm also a member of AMSAT and involved with the National Capital Region DSTAR Association.

My first introduction to ham radio was, of all things, a TV program. As a kid, I was watching Saturday morning TV and saw a short TV spot, narrated by Arthur Godfrey, K4LIB, which talked about ham radio. I was absolutely transfixed by what I saw. I remember being so excited that I ran upstairs and told my parents that I wanted to become a ham radio operator! My Elmer was my neighbor two doors down: Fred Malen, (sorry, but I don't remember his Ohio call sign). He helped me out when I built my first Heathkit transmitter, a DX60B. I continued learning more about ham radio and joined my local ham club in Cincinnati, OH. My ham radio experience helped me out immensely later in life, first as an Electronics Technician in the Coast Guard and later when I got my BSEE.



I particularly enjoy HF, Satellite and DSTAR communications. Summary of Station Equipment: HF: Icom IC-706MKIIG, Hustler 6BTV, Yaesu FT-817 for QRP. Satellite: Icom IC-910H, homebrew 2m/70cm turnstile antennas, Kenwood THF-6A, Arrow handheld antenna. DSTAR: Icom IC-2820H, Icom IC-91AD, Arrow dual-band J-pole antenna (DSTAR hotspot), Yaesu FT-2600M (DSTAR hotspot).

For several years, I helped out with the OVH Hamfest committee. In the past few years, I've been responsible for the OVH Training and Education committee, teaching Technician and General Class courses. It has been gratifying to watch many students get their license and continue on in ham radio.

I've always enjoyed operating at Field Day each year. I also enjoy going to the Dayton Hamvention each year to meet up with my old Ohio friends and learn about all the new things going on in ham radio. The one event that stands out for me was visiting the ARRL headquarters and operating W1AW in 2007. It was an amazing experience to become THE source of the pileup for once in my life! I really came to appreciate the historical significance of that station and all the hams, throughout the years, that have helped to keep ham radio alive.

The best way to contact me is by email: wa4kfz@arrl.net

OVH Club History Project - Theresa / KG4TVM

As OVH Club Historian, I have been fortunate to receive many artifacts and items of club history, including articles, certificates, pictures, publications, etc. These come from various club members, past and present. I intend to start organizing these material into some kind of good order, scan items that are amenable to scanning and get them into a display ready medium. I will continue to collect all artifacts and items that you would want to pass to the OVH Club Historian, and I do have a secure safe place for storage.

One thing I have started which relates to the OVH Club History is the Club Member Spotlight which has now appeared twice in the Newsletter. I hope to obtain member participation for that so that Club Member Spotlight feature can be kept going. It is a great way to introduce our newer members and reintroduce the old timers to the rest of the club and to appreciate the talent and diversity that we have among us.

Our March 2012 Club Member Spotlight, appearing above, is on Mark / WA4KFZ. We are grateful for Mark sharing his ham story with us. The OVH is also very grateful for the time and effort Mark puts into teaching the Tech and General classes. Mark is an active participant at club meetings and events. His contributions to the ham radio community are astounding! The picture of Mark was taken when he was operating at the ARRL headquarters.

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Lightning Strike!

Your Editor's experience with a near lightning strike last year. One night last June (2011), shortly after 11:00 PM local time, there was a blinding flash of lightning with a simultaneous boom of thunder. No perceptible time delay between the thunder and the lightning flash meant this lightning strike had to be very close by. Electric power did not trip off and no circuit breakers blew, but certain satellite TV channels no longer worked.

A quick search around the house and outside did not reveal where the actual lightning strike had occurred; that was not located until an arborist pointed out the vertical lightning strike line on the main trunk of the tree, a tall white oak tree, with a 30" diameter trunk about 10 feet from the house last month (February, 2012). See picture to the right.

Over the next several days after the strike, I was able to evaluate the "electrically" related damage - it was bad, very bad, the worst ever in my personal experience. A short summary: 1. main house POTS telephone lines branches within the house not working (POTS line runs underground and there was dialtone on it at the entrance to the house); 2. two of the telephones connected to the POTS line branches inside the house no longer working; 3. DSL line still working but two Ethernet connections out of the DSL demodulator / router inside the house no longer working; 4. five Ethernet switches connected to CAT5 lines within the house - no longer working; 5. one computer completely dead, but hard drive inside that computer still good; 6. Ethernet cards in five other computers completely dead - but no other computer damage; 7. network card in high speed business copier / scanner - dead; 8. fax machine dead on business fax VOIP line, but all business VOIP lines were still working; 9. telephone extensions off of business PBX which uses VOIP lines - two of eight dead; 10. one outdoor electrical outlet no longer working; 11. three indoor electrical outlets, various locations, no longer working; 12. two indoor light switches no longer working; and 13. DirecTV 4-port distribution box from satellite dish no longer working but DishNetwork satellite system still working.

Radio equipment - very lucky, no damage, but no HF equipment was connected to any antenna or turned on at the time of the strike; and VHF and UHF equipments were connected only to indoor antennas and not turned on at the time of the near strike.

Conclusions - I was very lucky. Ethernet cabling and connections are especially vulnerable to EMP from near lightning strikes. Keep all radio antennas disconnected during thunderstorm season when not in use.



RE M I N D E R

Renew your
OVH membership!



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!!
Below is the 2012 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to
the address below or drop off at a meeting.

Be sure to update all information, especially e-mail address, telephone
number(s) and 9 digit ZIP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB"
2012

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

CALL SIGN: _____
Home Tel: _____
Cell Tel: _____
Work Tel: _____
EMAIL: _____
BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)

ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)

MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are now **\$10.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2012

Dues for additional family members **living at the same mailing address** are **\$5.00**

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____

Name: _____
Name: _____

Call: _____
Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 1255
Manassas, VA 20108-1255

VIRGINIA'S OLE FASHIONED

Manassas Hamfest

AMATEUR RADIO, COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS SHOW

OUR
38th
YEAR

An ARRL-Approved HAMFEST Presented By:
The "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

(A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio)

Sunday, June 10, 2012

Prince William County Fairgrounds

Large outdoor flea market area, two indoor air-conditioned
buildings, several covered buildings and ample parking

10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112-2720 (Route 234) - TALK-IN 146.97- 442.200- D-Star 442.5125+

INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE

8-foot tables: \$30 each

with chairs & electricity
(\$25 if reserved by May 1)
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$8 per person at gate

\$7 Advance Sales
Gates open at 7 AM
Free Parking

TAILGATING

\$8 per space (plus admission)

Gates open at 6 AM
Ample Room—25 acres
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

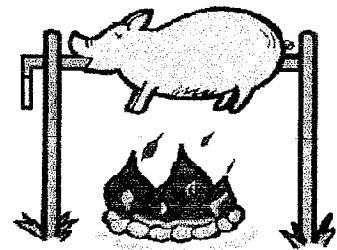
VE TESTING — Contact David, KG4GIY (kg4giy@arrrl.net) for more details

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly beginning at 9 AM for those present
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM
(Winner MUST be present during drawing)

INFORMATION

- ARRL Roanoke Division Officers will be attending
- Virginia Section Manager's Forum
- 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives will be present
- DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available
- "Virginia QSO Party" Awards Ceremony



**Our third year featuring
Corbin's Pulled Pork & their specialty
The Porky Tater**

Our Featured Vendors:

EAGLE 1 COMMUNICATIONS CB & Amateur Radio
E Z HANG • RADIO WORKS • SAUDERELECTRONICS.com

Directions/Details/Hotel Info at our Web Site <http://www.w4ovh.net>

Dealer Information: George (K4GVT) • Tel: 703-791-5956 • Email: K4GVT@comcast.net

General Information: Bruce (AB8CI) • Tel: 703-596-5617 • Email: AB8CI@comcast.net
info@www.manassashamfest.com